



Chattanooga City Council
City of Chattanooga, Tennessee
John P. Franklin, Sr. City Council Building

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2025
3:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chairman Chip Henderson called the business meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was present that also included Vice Chair Jenny Hill and Councilpersons Darrin Ledford, Isiah Hester, Jenni Berz, Marvene Noel, Raquetta Dotley, and Demetrus Coonrod. Councilman Ken Smith joined the meeting at 3:35 p.m. [Editor's Note: This meeting was live streamed and is available on YouTube [here](#).]

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Office of City Attorney: Phil Noblett, City Attorney

Economic Development: Charita Allen, Senior Advisor

Community Health: Dr. Derek Anderson, Director

Public Works: Jerramy Wood, Administrator

Purchasing: Debbie Talley, Chief Procurement Officer

Regional Planning: Karen Rennich, Deputy Administrator

Storm Water: Maria Price, Director, and Mitch Underwood, Water Quality Specialist

Council Office: Kristal Becker, Administrative Assistant, and Nicole Gwyn, Clerk to Council

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilwoman Berz led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave an invocation.

APPROVAL OF LAST MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Ledford, the minutes of the last meeting (February 11, 2025) were approved as published.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Henderson announced that the business meeting scheduled for March 4th is canceled as it coincides with the Municipal Election Day.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING:

Agenda Item VIII(a) – Planning – Case No. MR-2024-0192

Councilman Ledford asked Councilwoman Coonrod if the four conditions of the community would be presented for this agenda item. Councilwoman Coonrod confirmed. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

RESOLUTIONS:

Agenda Item IX(d) – Economic Development (Relative to approving policies for the PILOT)

Councilman Ledford asked Ms. Allen for clarification on the revisions. Ms. Allen discussed the labor amendments and local construction components that were added to the agreement. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

NEXT WEEK’S PROPOSED AGENDA (February 25, 2025)

RESOLUTIONS:

Agenda Item 9(b) – Community Health (Relative to funds for hiring the Director of Urban Agriculture)

Vice Chair Hill asked Dr. Anderson about the status of the funding from the National Research Council to hire a Director for Urban Agriculture. Dr. Anderson addressed the Council and gave more information about the vision for the Urban Agriculture Director position.

PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

CALL TO ORDER: Councilman Hester, Committee Chair, called the Parks and Public Works Committee to order at 3:44 p.m., with a quorum present. [View the committee meeting [here](#).]

MINUTE APPROVAL: On motion of Vice Chair Hill and seconded by Councilman Ledford, the minutes of the last Parks and Public Works Committee meeting (February 4, 2025) were approved as published.

Councilman Hester instructed the clerk to read the resolutions on the committee agenda for this week and the next. Upon no comments or questions from Council, the issues were closed.

Storm Water MS4 Annual Presentation

[View [here](#)]

Mr. Wood (Public Works) led a presentation on behalf of the Storm Water division of Public Works. He introduced Ms. Price and Mr. Underwood to continue the presentation. The [presentation](#) included information on the following:

- NPDES permit
- FY2023 – 2024 illicit discharges & watershed
- FY24 Industrial Inspections
- Municipal inspections
- Storm Water control measures
- Rain Smart program
- Single family residential pond program
- Storm Water fee discounts

- Public education and outreach
- Storm system inventory

The Council questioned the presenters on the following:

- Illicit discharge and overflows (Vice Chair Hill)
- Retention ponds and points of contact for service (Councilwoman Dotley)
- Onboarding Westbank detention pond (Councilman Ledford)
- How to involve volunteers (Councilman Hester)

Upon no further questions or comments, the presentation was closed. Councilman Hester adjourned the Parks & Public Works Committee at 4:14 p.m.

MEETING RECESS

With permission from Chairman Henderson, Councilman Hester recessed the business meeting until 5:00 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED

Chairman Henderson reconvened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. A quorum as present that also included Vice Chair Hill and Councilpersons Smith, Ledford, Hester, Berz, Dotley, Noel, and Coonrod. Attorney Noblett and Ms. Gwyn were also present.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ORDINANCES – FINAL READING:

On motion of Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Ledford,

ORDINANCE #14196

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OPERATIONS BUDGET ORDINANCE NO. 14118, KNOWN AS "THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 OPERATIONS BUDGET," TO AMEND SECTIONS 5 AND 5(A) SO AS TO APPROPRIATE \$29,907,500.00 FROM GENERAL FUND RESERVES OF WHICH \$11,907,500.00 TO VARIOUS CAPITAL PROJECTS, INCREASE CONTINGENCY APPROPRIATION OF \$18 MILLION FOR ONE TIME PAYMENT TO THE FIRE AND POLICE PENSION FUND; TO PROVIDE FOR REALLOCATION OF APPROPRIATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN THE DISSOLUTION OF THAT DEPARTMENT; TO REALLOCATE APPROPRIATIONS BETWEEN CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS; AND TO AMEND SECTION 7(D) DUE TO ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES DURING FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 TO REALLOCATE AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CERTAIN NEW OR CHANGED POSITIONS.

The motion carried upon roll call vote as follows:

Smith	YES	Noel	YES
Ledford	YES	Coonrod	YES
Hester	YES	Hill	YES
Berz	YES	Henderson	YES
Dotley	YES		

YES – Nine (9); NO – Zero (0)

ACTION: ORDINANCE 14196 APPROVED

On motion of Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Ledford,

ORDINANCE #14197

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CAPITAL BUDGET ORDINANCE NO. 14119, KNOWN AS “THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 CAPITAL BUDGET,” APPROPRIATING, AUTHORIZING OR ALLOCATING FUNDS TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 TO INCREASE THE CAPITAL BUDGET BY \$11,907,500.00 FROM GENERAL FUND RESERVES.

The motion carried upon roll call vote as follows:

Coonrod	YES	Ledford	YES
Noel	YES	Smith	YES
Dotley	YES	Hill	YES
Berz	YES	Henderson	YES
Hester	YES		

YES – Nine (9); No – Zero (0)

ACTION: ORDINANCE 14197 APPROVED

PROCEDURAL NOTE: With no objection from the Council, Chairman Henderson instructed the Clerk to group and read the following five ordinances for one Council vote.

2025-0005
Jeff Dawson
Alternate Version
District No. 2

ORDINANCE #14198

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 38, ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4306 NORTH ACCESS ROAD, FROM RN-1-6 RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ZONE TO I-L LIGHT INDUSTRIAL ZONE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

2025-0004
Joseph Ingram
Planning Commission Version
District No. 6

ORDINANCE #14199

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 38, ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6515 HUNT DRIVE, FROM RN-1-6 RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ZONE TO RN-3 RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ZONE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

2025-0006
Southside Gardens Land, LLC
Planning Commission Version
District No. 7

ORDINANCE #14200

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 38, ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2619, 2621, AND AN UNADDRESSED PROPERTY IN THE 2600 BLOCK OF LONG STREET, FROM RN-3 RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ZONE TO TRN-3 TRADITIONAL RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ZONE.

2025-0014
Lloyd Sargeant
Planning Commission Version
District No. 9

ORDINANCE #14201

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 38, ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2403 GLASS STREET, FROM RN-2 RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ZONE TO C-TMU TRANSITIONAL MIXED USE ZONE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

ORDINANCE #14202

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 38, THE CHATTANOOGA ZONING ORDINANCE AS ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 14137 ON JULY 23, 2024, TO ADD ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS, ADD OFFICE AS A PERMITTED USE IN THE RN-3 RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ZONE, AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF REGULATIONS RELATED TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS, AND THE LAND USE PERMITTED TABLE TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE RETAIL SALES OF ALCOHOL.

Vice Chair Hill moved to approve the five ordinances. Councilwoman Dotley seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION: ORDINANCES 14198 - 14202 APPROVED

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING:

2024-0192

Miken Development c/o Michael Kenner

Alternate Version

District No. 9

ORDINANCE #14203

[View [Here](#)]

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 38, ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2659 GLASS STREET, FROM RN-1-5 RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ZONE TO C-TMU TRANSITIONAL MIXED-USE COMMERCIAL ZONE.

There was no opposition present in the Assembly. The Clerk confirmed reading the Alternate Version of this ordinance into the record. **Councilwoman Coonrod moved** to approve with the intent to amend. Councilman Ledford seconded. **Councilwoman Coonrod moved** to amend by adding five conditions. Attorney Noblett read the following conditions that would be added:

- 1) *Hours of operation shall be within the timeframes as follows: 6:00 am- 10:00 pm (weekday) and 6:00 am-midnight (weekend);*
- 2) *No alcohol sales including retail package liquor stores;*
- 3) *No outdoor kennel or vehicular repair uses;*
- 4) *No outdoor amplification of sound after 8:00 pm; and*
- 5) *No retail sales of age-restricted products such as alcohol and tobacco.*

Councilman Ledford seconded the amendment. The motion carried. **Councilwoman Coonrod moved** to approve as amended. Councilman Ledford seconded. **The motion carried with Councilpersons Dotley and Noel both voting “No.”**

**ACTION: ALTERNATE VERSION PASSED ON
FIRST READING WITH FIVE CONDITIONS**

RESOLUTIONS:

PROCEDURAL NOTE: With no objection from the Council, Chairman Henderson instructed the Clerk to group and read the following three resolutions for one Council vote.

RESOLUTION #32403

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF SAM ELLIOTT WITH THE LAW FIRM OF GEARHISER, PETERS, ELLIOTT & CANNON, AS A SECOND ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICER, FOR A ONE (1) YEAR TERM BEGINNING ON FEBRUARY 19, 2025, AND ENDING ON FEBRUARY 18, 2026, PURSUANT TO CITY CODE SECTION 21-236.

RESOLUTION #32404

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO A PARKING AGREEMENT WITH THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION, INC., IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED, FOR THE CONTINUED USE OF THE SURFACE PARKING LOT LOCATED AT 515 E. 4TH STREET, FURTHER IDENTIFIED AS TAX MAP NUMBER 135M-J-002, AND LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION PROPERTY AT 519 E. 4TH STREET, FOR AN INITIAL TERM OF ONE YEAR WITH THE OPTION TO RENEW FOR THREE ADDITIONAL TERMS OF ONE YEAR EACH AT THE CONSIDERATION OF TEN DOLLARS (\$10.00) AND THE ASSUMPTION OF ALL LANDSCAPING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE OF THE LEASED PREMISES.

RESOLUTION #32405

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO EXECUTE A RELEASE AND TERMINATION OF REVERSIONARY RIGHTS, IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED, FOR THE RELEASE OF THE REVERSIONARY RIGHTS ON THE PARCELS IDENTIFIED AS TAX MAP NUMBERS 146A-J-009 AND 146A-J-010 IN THE QUITCLAIM DEED DATED OCTOBER 4, 1996, AND RECORDED IN BOOK 4757, PAGE 716 IN THE REGISTER'S OFFICE OF HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE.

Vice Chair Hill moved to approve the three resolutions. Councilwoman Dotley seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION: RESOLUTIONS 32403 – 32405 ADOPTED

On motion of Councilman Ledford and seconded by Vice Chair Hill,

RESOLUTION #32406

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA APPROVING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR PAYMENT-IN-LIEU-OF-TAX TRANSACTIONS FOR THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA.

Councilman Ledford and Vice Chair Hill both made comments [view [here](#)] about the process leading up to this legislation. The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilwoman Coonrod and seconded by Councilwoman Dotley,

RESOLUTION #32407

A RESOLUTION RENAMING THE EASTDALE COMMUNITY CENTER TO THE JESSIE IGOU COMMUNITY CENTER.

The motion carried.

ACTION: ADOPTED

PROCEDURAL NOTE: With no objection from the Council, Chairman Henderson instructed the Clerk to group and read the following six resolutions for one Council vote.

RESOLUTION #32408

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR OF PARKS & OUTDOORS TO ENTER INTO A REVISED VERSION OF THE ARTWORK DONATION AGREEMENT, IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED, WITH RIVERCITY COMPANY, TO ACCEPT "THE SCRAMBLE" ARTWORK INSTALLATION VALUED AT \$553,073.00, WITH LEFTOVER CONTINGENCY FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$57,827.65, WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE PUBLIC ART MAINTENANCE FUND.

RESOLUTION #32409

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE A JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT (JFA) WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA FOR AN EMERGENCY STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PROJECT UNDER THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS SECTION 14 PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,000.00 TO SATISFY THE CITY'S SHARE OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY COSTS, AS OUTLINED IN THE FEASIBILITY COST SHARING AGREEMENT (FCSA) WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FOR THE TENNESSEE RIVER STABILIZATION ADJACENT TO THE DUPONT SANITARY SEWER INTERCEPTOR SYSTEM UPSTREAM OF THE RIVERMONT TENNIS CENTER AT TENNESSEE RIVER MILE 469.

RESOLUTION #32410

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO CONTRACT S-21-009-101, FOR CTI ENGINEERS, INC., LANDFILL DEFICIENCY RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPAIRS TO THE LINER, LEACHATE, AND GAS COLLECTION SYSTEM AT THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA BIRCHWOOD AND SUMMIT LANDFILLS, FOR AN INCREASED AMOUNT OF \$60,000.00, FOR A REVISED NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$545,000.00.

RESOLUTION #32411

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE THE ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BLANKET CONTRACT FOR THE LANDFILL BUSINESS PLAN, CONTRACT S-23-009-101, FOR A FOUR (4) YEAR CONTRACT WITH RAFTELIS FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS, INC., OF CHARLOTTE, NC, ESTIMATED AT \$500,000.00 ANNUALLY.

RESOLUTION #32412

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ACCEPT FY2024 COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) FOR THE ALTON PARK CONNECTOR, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$6.4 MILLION AND TO USE A PORTION OF THE FUNDS TO ENTER INTO A SUB-AWARD AGREEMENT WITH THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$640,000.00.

RESOLUTION #32413

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE A SUB-RECIPIENT AGREEMENT TO UTILIZE FTA (FEDERAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY) 5310 GRANT FUNDS AWARDED TO CARTA WHEREIN THE GRANT AWARD TOTALS \$597,701.00, INCLUDES \$477,601.00 IN FTA FUNDS, \$59,700.00 IN TDOT FUNDS, AND WOULD REQUIRE \$59,700.00 IN CITY FUNDS.

Councilwoman Dotley moved to approve all six resolutions. Councilwoman Coonrod seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION: RESOLUTIONS 32408 - 32413 ADOPTED

Kiara Corporation
District No. 6

Agenda Item IX(I):

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A NEW SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS PERMIT FOR A NEW LIQUOR STORE LOCATED AT 7354 E. BRAINERD ROAD.

Councilwoman Berz asked Ms. Rennich (Regional Planning) to speak on the distance requirements for a liquor store. [View the full discussion [here](#).] Attorney Noblet advised the need to defer this item so that the City can confirm the survey showing the distance from the property line. Therefore, **Councilwoman Berz moved** to defer one week to February 25, 2025. Vice Chair Hill seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION: DEFERRED TO FEBRUARY 25, 2025

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

[View [here](#)]

Recommended New Purchases

Ms. Talley (Purchasing) recommended the following new purchases for Council consideration:

REQ159887 Wastewater	\$58,673.00
Thickener Gearbox	
Lowest/Best Bidder: Walker Process Equipment Division of McNish, LLC	
840 North Russell Avenue	
Aurora, Illinois 60506	

PO 561699 Street Maintenance Division, Public Works \$2,920,000.00
 Transfer, Transportation and Disposal of Construction
 & Demolition Waste
 Lowest/Best Bidder: CWS Chattanooga Transfer
 1387 Wisdom Street
 Chattanooga, TN 37406

PO 556671 Technology Services \$1,160,000.00
 Verizon Wireless Services for Citywide Usage
 Lowest/Best Bidder: Verizon Wireless
 5959 Shallowford Road #19
 Chattanooga, TN 37421

Councilman Ledford moved to approve. Councilwoman Noel seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION: ALL NEW PURCHASES APPROVED

Sole Source Purchases

Ms. Talley also reported on the following sole source purchases*:

DATE	DEPARTMENT	SUPPLIER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	COST	DOCUMENTS
2/6/25	Early Learning/Head Start	Conscious Discipline Holdings, LLC PO Box 470367 Lake Monroe, FL 32747	Staff Training for Early Learning	This sole-source purchase is for on-site Social and Emotional Learning training for the Early Learning/Head Start Staff.	\$43,265.00	REQ158632
2/11/25	Head Start	Foundations for Families, LLC 719 Forest Park Road Great Falls, VA 22066	Consulting for Head Start Expansion Grant writing	This sole-source purchase is for consulting assistance with expansion grant writing for Head Start and Early Head Start.	\$21,825.00	REQ159675

**No Council action was required for these purchases.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Affordable Housing Committee
 Vice Chair Hill (No report)

Budget and Finance Committee
 Councilman Ken Smith (No report)

Economic Development Committee
 Councilwoman Coonrod (No report)

Education Committee

Councilwoman Noel reported:

- There will be a department report [Early Learning] next week.

Equity and Community Development Committee

Councilwoman Coonrod (No report)

Legislative Committee

Councilman Smith - Expressed thanks for the work done on the budget amendments.

Planning and Zoning Committee

Councilman Ledford (No report)

Parks and Public Works Committee

Councilman Hester reported:

- The committee met today and heard the Wastewater presentation.

Public Safety Committee

Councilwoman Dotley (No report)

OTHER BUSINESS

Certificate of Compliance

DEFERRED UNTIL FEBRUARY 25, 2025: Certificate of Compliance, Scenic City Corporation d/b/a Scenic City Bottle Shop, 7354 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, TN (District 6).

RECOGNITION OF PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

[View [here](#)]

Attorney Noblett read the rules of procedure for persons wishing to address the Council. After which, Chairman Henderson recognized the following persons:

Speaker Name	District	Primary Topics:
• Josh Branum	(N/A)	GCAR’s January housing statistics/average economic report per home sales
• Patrick Devlin	(N/A)	Need for CPD fraud investigating team/concerns about CPD’s pacing speed tracking
• Joshua Kapellusch	(N/A)	Need to examine police pay/police retention/Safety and security in communities
• Monty Bell	(N/A)	Due process and equal protection of the laws
• Helen Burns Sharp	7	15-year timeline of PILOT Policies <i>[see attached]</i>
• Joseph Patten	(N/A)	Support of PILOT policies and procedures by CALEB Economic Task Force
• Cole Harper	(N/A)	More opportunities needed for residents/value of working together as a community

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilwoman Dotley, Chairman Henderson adjourned the meeting of the Chattanooga City Council **until next Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.**

[Editor's Note: The City Council business meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, has been cancelled in light of the municipal election taking place that day.]

COUNCIL CHAIR

CLERK OF COUNCIL

*Attachment:
Statement from Helen Burns Sharp*



TO: Chattanooga City Council
FROM: Helen Burns Sharp, Accountability for Taxpayer Money
DATE: February 18, 2025
SUBJECT: PILOT Policies—A Timeline and A Thank You

- 2010 Councilwoman **Deborah Scott** led a significant effort (11 versions) to establish Policies and Procedures for PILOTs. None were adopted.
- 2014 **Ric Ebersole**, IDB chair, called for more transparency in how PILOTs are approved and monitored.
- 2015 The City Council adopted policies for tax increment financing (TIF).
- 2015 Accountability for Taxpayer Money (ATM) founded by Helen Burns Sharp
- 2015 The Unity Group of Chattanooga, led by **Sherman Matthews and Joe Rowe**, and the Chattanooga Tea Party, led by **Mark West**, endorsed the concept of written PILOT policies, demonstrating its popularity across the political spectrum.
- 2017 Fifteen (15) members of ATM attended the May 16th City Council meeting wearing tee shirts that read: “Adopt Policies before Approving Jobs PILOTs.” **Franklin and Tresa McCallie** were key supporters.
- 2017 Councilman **Darrin Ledford** initiated a City Council study examining possible PILOT policies. Some procedures, but no policies, were adopted the following year.
- 2021 CALEB’s Economic Mobility Task Force held virtual candidate forums before the City election in March and asked candidates to commit to written policies. Mayoral candidate Tim Kelly committed. Key task force members included **Geoff Meldahl, Janice Gooden, Joseph Paden, Austin Sauerbrei-Brown, Brandon Denney, and Helen Burns Sharp**.
- 2021 **Mayor Tim Kelly** asked his economic development staff (**Jermaine Freeman**) and Chamber staff to work with CALEB and ATM in developing PILOT policies. **Charita Allen** began providing city staff leadership on the project in the fall of 2024.
- 2025 **The City Council adopted written PILOT policies on February 18th**. Members of this Council were **Chip Henderson, Jenny Hill, Ken Smith, Darrin Ledford, Isiah Hester, Jenni Berz, Raquetta Dotley, Marvene Noel, and Demetrus Coonrod**.